NEWS

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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18th Annual Parade the Circle Coming June 9

Annual Community Arts Event Attracts Tens of Thousands of Spectators

CLEVELAND (Feb. 25, 2007) — The 2007 **Parade the Circle**, slated for **Saturday, June 9, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** with some activities running through early evening, is sure to engage and delight those in attendance with fun-filled activities, 2,000 Parade participants, a multitude of international artists and an expected crowd of more than 50,000 spectators.

This **free** day-long community arts event will feature a colorful parade at noon and interactive crafts and activities provided by more than 25 University Circle organizations, along with live music, dance and theater performances, in Circle Village.

"**Parade the Circle** is a day-long celebration of the creative spirit, featuring activities and entertainment which highlight the talents and diversity of the greater Cleveland community," says Robin VanLear, artistic director of the parade and the Cleveland Museum of Art's community arts program. Located in Cleveland's cultural hub — University Circle —**Parade the Circle** is presented by the Cleveland Museum of Art (CMA), and Circle Village is presented by University Circle Inc. (UCI).

The theme for this year's parade is "Symbiosis—a lyrical discord of harmonious contradictions." From its humble beginnings with only 125 participants and approximately 1,000 spectators in 1990, the annual **Parade the Circle** celebration has grown into an area-wide cultural event drawing tens of thousands of spectators and 2,000 parade participants. Despite the increased interest over the years, the event has remained true to its original purpose of drawing on festival traditions from throughout the world to help people of all ages and backgrounds create unique costumes and floats side–by-side with professional artists.

Parade the Circle

Featuring costumed stilt-dancers, giant puppets, musicians, and dancers from Cleveland-area communities and beyond, the parade begins at noon and proceeds in a circular route along Wade Oval Drive and East Boulevard. Creative ensembles will be designed and constructed by international and

local artists as well as by schools, community groups, families, and individual participants in the parade. Guest artists from Trinidad and Tobago, Canada, and Brazil will take part in the parade by creating ensembles, serving as technical specialists, and directing outreach programs with various community organizations throughout Cleveland.

This year's Circle of Masks Festival takes place Sunday, April 22, from 1-4 p.m. at CMA. The public Parade the Circle Workshops begin April 27. **Those interested in participating in this year's parade or any of the workshops should contact the community arts department at CMA at 216-707-2483.**

(more)

Circle Village

UCI is planning several new and creative additions to Circle Village. Throughout the morning and early afternoon, bring the entire family to Wade Oval to enjoy dance, theater, and musical performances, as well as activities sponsored by more than 25 of University Circle's cultural institutions and museums. This year, the party doesn't stop. UCI is extending the hours of Circle Village to attract a diverse group of visitors, from families with children to young professionals to seniors. Enjoy refreshments from the beer and wine garden while main stage music, entertainment, and even a few surprises continue throughout the afternoon and into the evening.

"We invite families and friends of all ages to spend June 9 in University Circle at **Parade the Circle** and Circle Village. It's a fabulous opportunity to experience the vitality of the Circle and learn more about the vast offerings from our great institutions," says UCI President Chris Ronayne.

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Promotional support for Parade the Circle provided by 89.7 WKSU and Cleveland Magazine.

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Note: A media kit to be distributed in April will give more details about international artists and Circle Village activities. Separate releases on Parade workshops and CMA's April 22 Mask Festival will be distributed in April.